



Water Safety Policy

This information relates specifically to and meets the requirements of Regulation 168 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*.

Adelaide Miethke Preschool educators recognises that the safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water.

Water play

Water play activities will be part of our program. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences. Children who become wet during water play will be changed when they have completed their play. Parents are encouraged to pack multiple change of clothes.

Water hazard

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

There are a number of water hazards in children's learning environments, including:

- sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls
- water courses, sandpits, clam shells/wading pools.
- water troughs, containers, buckets and other vessels used for play including baby baths
- pooling water

Managing water hazards

Active supervision - children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. This includes:

- direct and constant monitoring of children - within arm's length (within 1-2m)
- careful, intentional positioning
- scanning and moving around the area
- listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- observing play and anticipating behaviour

First aid - At all times at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification will be in attendance. The centre strives for best practice and encourages all staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates. All staff are encouraged to keep first aid qualifications up to date.

Eliminating hazards

Whilst ensuring that children have access to water within the learning program educators will seek to eliminate hazards from the preschool environment. This includes:

- Emptying water immediately after use and storing vessels in a manner that prevents them from filling with water when not in use.
- Filling water troughs and vessels to a safe level.
- Checking the premises after rain or regular watering and dissipating (emptying) water that has collected in pot-holes or containers.
- Ensuring that all aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling or that water cleared as needed.
- Removing tap keys from taps to prevent unsupervised access to water.
- Children's drink bottles to be placed in the trolley by the main entrance. Bottles can be re-filled with drinking water from the filtered water tap in kitchen. Staff will explicitly teach children to request their water bottles be re-filled if empty.

Hot water & hot drinks

- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually as per DfE preventative maintenance.
- When children are on the premises, all hot drinks consumed by adults must be transported/consumed using a vessel with a spill-proof lid to prevent the risk of scalding.

Excursions and Special Events

We will consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk assessment for all excursions and special events such as 'water play' days. Refer to the [camps and excursions guidelines \(PDF, 807.8 KB\)](#) and the [EDi page](#) for information on how to initiate, plan and risk assess for camps and excursions.

The [preschool water safety procedure \(PDF, 112.3 KB\)](#) outlines the department's commitment to managing water safety.

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